

Point Mackenzie Correctional Farm Produce Processing Plant

FY2022 Request: \$1,500,000
Reference No: 63223

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Life / Health / Safety

Category: General Government

Location: Point Mackenzie

House District: Big Lake/Point Mackenzie (HD 8)

Impact House District: Big Lake/Point Mackenzie (HD 8)

Contact: April Wilkerson

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2021 - 06/30/2026 **Contact Phone:** (907)465-3460

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

Establish and implement a Prison Industry (PI) Produce Processing Plant. These funds would meet the equipment purchase and the needs to construct a fully functional processing plant and large freezer units. Point Mackenzie Correctional Farm would be able to process the produce and provide long term freezer storage for year-round distribution to all correctional facilities statewide.

Funding:	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	Total
1004 Gen Fund	\$1,500,000						\$1,500,000
Total:	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,500,000

☐ State Match Required ☐ One-Time Project ☐ Phased - new ☐ Phased - underway ☐ Ongoing
0% = Minimum State Match % Required ☐ Amendment ☐ Mental Health Bill

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	0
Totals:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

Project Description/Justification:

This funding will meet the design, construction, infrastructure, large freezer units and necessary equipment to implement a Prison Industries (PI) Produce Processing Plant with large freezer storage units.

Establishing a produce processing plant will allow the farm to expand the current production grown by the farm as well as provide year-round distribution to all facilities as well as flash freezing capability methods.

The Point Mackenzie Correctional Farm (PMCF) prisoners maintains more than 330 acres of potatoes, forage production, carrots, and cole crops (cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli) plus lettuce and squash as well as six greenhouses. In the summer months, the greenhouses produced tomatoes, cucumber, peppers as well as other various items such as apples, raspberries, rhubarb, and strawberries. Last year these crops yielded more than 1,604,044 lbs of fruits and vegetables used to offset the inmate food costs throughout the correctional facilities. Additionally, more than \$350,000.00 was spent by the facilities to purchase additional frozen vegetables not available through farm productions.

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While the PMCF supplies the various correctional facilities, due to the current inability to process or freeze what cannot be used as fresh, the farm also donates approximately 20,000 pounds of produce annually to multiple charitable organizations throughout Alaska ranging from the Mat-Su Valley to Tok.

This project would establish the produce production program and allow services to potentially be provided through contracts with individual or private organizations or public agencies and receive payment for the employment of prisoners as identified under AS 33.30.191(b) for the processing of produce for local farmers. Having this self-supporting industry program will employ offenders in a small scale industry and promote the likelihood for a successful reentry into the community.

Additionally, PI programs will provide viable rehabilitation efforts to incarcerated offenders allowing them to earn wages that will ultimately be paid towards victim compensation, child and family support, court restitution, etc. These efforts will reduce recidivism through positive work programs that help motivate offenders to end offending behavior and will also increase accountability and responsibility in the workplace as well as contributing to the personal development of the offender.